

MARIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

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Jon Olaf Nelson

Water Resources Management

1833 Castle Drive

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Dear Jon,

Here are comments from MMWD on the issues that have been discussed in the public workshops and at the recent WAC meetings.

1. Regional water conservation and recycled water

The WAC should build on the success of the current funding program and allocate funds for development of programs in each of these areas that have regional benefit. The programs would be identified that are more efficiently accomplished on a regional basis such as public information and education about conservation, etc. or programs that cannot be accomplished by a single agency alone but would benefit several if not all the other agencies. Coordinated and/ or consolidated conservation programs would be more cost effective. Creating an advisory committee on conservation programs (with each WAC member appointing a representative) could help annually evaluate programs in this category.

In the area of recycled water, projects of regional benefit could be jointly funded by the whole or by benefiting WAC members. Funding for any recycled water project should include funding from the wastewater agency and the pro-rata share for the WAC participants would be related to the offset of potable water accomplished by the recycled water project.

2. Watershed management and stewardship

MMWD supports the need for involvement in the watershed management and stewardship to the extent that the impacts (and resulting costs) are associated with the direct operation of the SCWA in the production of water. Other parties to the impact on the river must be identified but the obligations of the WAC members should be limited to the activities of the production of water for potable purposes.

3. Water shortage impacts

Demand hardening, efforts to offset potable use and local supply must be factors in determining individual WAC member's water supply reductions in dry years. WAC members should not be punished for accomplishing conservation or recycled water projects by receiving identical across the board cuts in time of drought. Local supplies need to be factored into the whole

supply picture, but with full consideration of the type of local supply (e.g., wells can run dry in drought years too).

4. Governance

- We support developing a two-tiered WAC structure with an elected official from each WAC member sitting on a policy making board and staff on an operations committee.
- The policy making board should have a thorough independent evaluation of the funding set-up and policies of the SCWA with respect to all funds that receive revenues from WAC members or that involve potable water issues and responsibilities of the SCWA. Once this report has been received, periodic reviews or audits of these funds should be conducted by an independent firm reporting to the WAC policy making board.
- No specific project can be supported or committed to in the agreement unless it has been designed and completed the environmental review process.
- The policy making board of the WAC will review the entire SCWA budget well in advance of its presentation to the SCWA Board with adequate time to comment.

5. MMWD membership in WAC

If MMWD were to become a member the assumption is that:

- we would be a full voting member of the WAC
- our water costs would be the same as other South Petaluma Aqueduct users including property tax elements
- our water entitlement would have the same "firm supply" status as other WAC members
- we would have "firm capacity" in existing and future delivery facilities
- we would have no ratcheting requirements

We look forward to the continued discussion of these issues as we think this new agreement, whether MMWD is a full member or not, is laying the ground work for the new relationship that will exist with SCWA moving into the future.

Sincerely,

/S/

Pamela J. Nicolai
General Manager